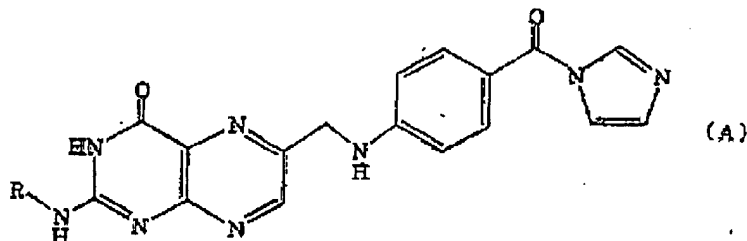
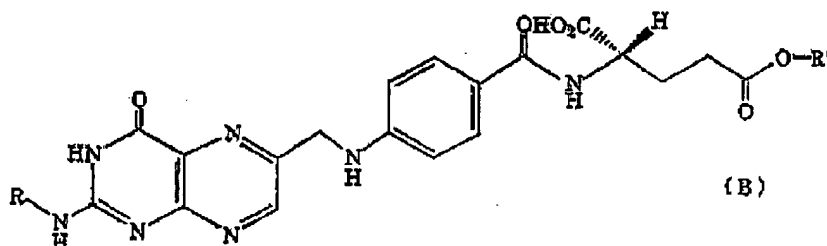


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a folic acid derivatives which comprises acid-amide compound comprising: a) ~~a step of reacting an imidazolide represented by a~~ the following formula (A):

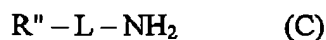


~~[[()]] in the formula [[.]] R stands for a protective wherein R represents a protecting group of for amino group acid [[()]] and is an amino acid protecting group used in peptide synthesis, with γ -lower alkyl L-glutamate in an organic solvent in the presence of a base an organic strong base to form a γ -lower alkyl 2-amino-protected folate which is represented by a~~ the following formula (B):



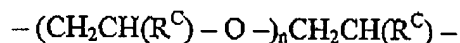
~~[[()]] in the formula [[.]] wherein R has the same signification to its definition given as to the definition as in formula (A), and R' stands for represents a lower alkyl [[()]]~~; and

b) ~~a step of reacting a γ -lower alkyl 2-amino-protected folate represented by the formula (B) with an amine compound of a~~ the following formula (C):



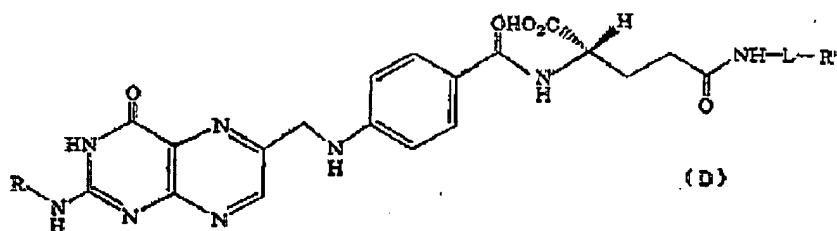
~~[[{]]in the formula[[,]] wherein R" stands for a reactive group readily reactable represents a group that forms a covalent bond with a functional group of an organic compound and which has no adverse effect on the binding of folic acid to a folic acid recognizing receptor, and~~

~~L stands for a linkage represents a valence bond, C₁ - C₅ alkylene or an oligo- or poly- (oxyalkylene) of a the following formula,~~



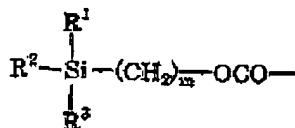
~~[[{]]in which R^o stands for wherein R^C represents hydrogen or methyl, and n is an integer of from 1 - 10,000[[{]]]~~

to produce a folic acid derivative acid-amine compound of a the following formula (D):



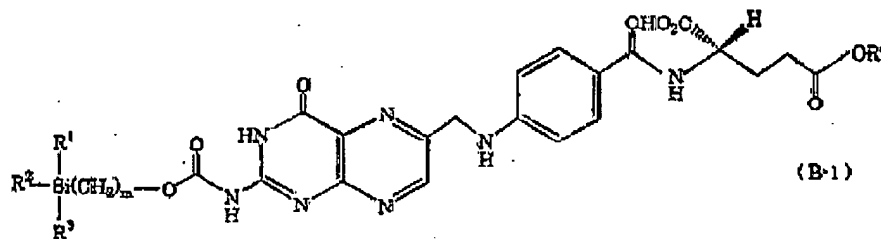
~~[[{]]in the formula[[,]] wherein R has the same signification to its definition given as to the definition as in the above formula (A), and L and R" have the same significations to these as defined as to the definitions as in the above formula (C)[{]]].~~

2. (Currently Amended) A The process according to Claim 1, ~~in which~~ wherein R in the formula (A) is a group represented by the following formula,



~~[[{]]in the formula[[,]] wherein R¹, R² and R³ each independently stands for represents lower alkyl, and m stands for represents an integer of from 1 - 4[[{]]].~~

3. (Currently Amended) A Gamma-lower alkyl 2-amino-protected folate represented by the following formula (B-1):



~~[[[]]in the formula[[]]]~~ wherein R^1 , R^2 and R^3 each independently ~~stands for~~ represents lower alkyl; m stands for ~~represents~~ an integer of 1 - 4; and R' ~~stands for~~ represents lower alkyl[[]].

4. (New) The process according to Claim 1, wherein R represents benzyloxycarbonyl, t-butoxycarbonyl, acetyl, trifluoromethanesulfonyl, or p-toluenesulfonyl.

5. (New) The process according to Claim 2, wherein R represents trimethylsilylmethoxycarbonyl, 2-trimethylsilylethoxycarbonyl, 3-trimethylsilylpropoxycarbonyl, 2-ethyltrimethylsilylethoxycarbonyl, 2-tert-dimethylsilylethoxycarbonyl, triethylsilylmethoxycarbonyl, or 2-triethylsilylethoxycarbonyl.